

**THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
HERITAGE OF AMERICA BAND**

HERITAGE BRASS QUINTET

Technical Sergeant David M. Crites, Horn
Group Leader, Heritage Brass Quintet

Technical Sergeant David Crites is a native of Sikeston, Missouri. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Methodist College and a Master of Music degree in Horn Performance from Emporia State University. His former teachers include Peter Kurau (Rochester Philharmonic) and Roger Kaza (St. Louis Symphony). Before joining the Air Force, Sergeant Crites served as the instructor of Horn at Central Methodist College and Northeast Missouri State University. He has been a featured soloist throughout Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas and he has performed with the Mid-America Woodwind Quintet, "Show Me" Brass Quintet, NMSU Faculty Brass Quintet, Blue Lake Wind Quintet, Kansas City Symphony, National Repertoire Orchestra and Summit Brass. In his off duty time, Dave enjoys baseball and collecting baseball cards as well as collecting and listening to recordings.

Staff Sergeant Jason P. Foster, Bass Trombone

Staff Sergeant Jason Foster, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, joined the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band in March of 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance from Indiana University. His former teachers include Scott Hartman, Donald Knaub, and Michael Mulcahy. Sergeant Foster was previously a member of the United States Continental Army Band at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and was principal trombone with the Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra. Sergeant Foster's military achievements include completion of the Non-commissioned officer Professional Development Course and selection as Soldier of the Quarter, third quarter of 2001, at Fort Monroe. While stationed at Langley Air Force Base, he completed the Airman Leadership School course, earning the John L. Levitow Award. Sergeant Foster was selected as Airman of the Quarter, fourth quarter, of 2004 and Non-commissioned officer of the Quarter, second quarter, of 2006. His military decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star. In his spare time, Sergeant Foster enjoys computers, basketball, and spending time with his wife, Claire, and their three children.

Staff Sergeant Michael Harkins, Trombone

Staff Sergeant Mike Harkins, a native of Irvine, CA, has been a member of the Heritage of America Band since March 2004. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California, Irvine and a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. His former trombone teachers include Mark Lawrence, Dennis Smith, Stephen Wilson, and David Stetson. Sergeant Harkins has performed with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Classical Ballet, Hollywood Pops Orchestra and the Seaside Brass Consort. Sergeant Harkins has been previously stationed with the USAF Band of the Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB, Georgia and the USAFE Band at Sembach AB, Germany. In his off-duty time he enjoys playing soccer, watching football and movies, reading fiction, and spending time with his wife, Jennifer and their daughter, Megan.

Staff Sergeant Mark L. Nixon, Trumpet

Staff Sergeant Mark Nixon, a native of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, has been a member of the Heritage of America Band since July 2001. He was awarded a Bachelor of Music degree in Education in 1999 and a Master of Music degree in Performance in 2001, both from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. His former teachers include Todd Davidson, Joel Treybig, George Novak, and Carol McCutcheon. Prior to joining the Air Force, Sergeant Nixon was the Principal Trumpet with the Lima Symphony, Adrian Symphony, Heidelberg Symphony, Perrysburg Symphony and the Bowling Green Philharmonia. He was also the lead trumpet in the Bowling Green Jazz Band, principal trumpet in the Bowling Green Wind Ensemble and conductor of the Bowling Green Trumpet Ensemble. In his spare time, Sergeant Nixon enjoys soccer, tennis, golf, and collecting CD's of jazz and classical music.

Staff Sergeant Gary H. Holmes, Trumpet

Staff Sergeant Gary H. Holmes, a native of Elmira, New York, entered the Air Force in July of 2002. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Mansfield University in December 1998, completed a Masters degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of Kansas in May 2001 and is currently working toward a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, also from the University of Kansas. His former teachers include Christopher Moore and Dr. H. Michael Galloway. Prior to joining the Heritage of America Band, Sergeant Holmes performed with the Kansas City Symphony Brass Ensemble, Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Finger Lakes, Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, and Southern Tier Jazz Ensemble. In his off-duty time, Sergeant Holmes enjoys running, hunting, playing soccer, basketball, baseball, and spending time with his wife, Angela, and their children.